

terra cotta. The wall which is opposite both entrances of the first floor is to receive three copies after Raffaele, one "The School of Athens," painted by M. Paul Blazs.

The large reading-room is composed of two galleries, extending in the direction of the axis of the principal facade. It is of striking appearance and extent, being not less than the famous Salle des Pas Perdus in the Palais de Justice. Seventeen arches of iron, supported by sixteen columns of the same metal, and of the composite order, separate the galleries. Other transversal arches of iron are connected with the listel of the capitals of the central columns. All the pedestals are on two of their sides ornamented with roses. The decoration of the other sides is of a varied character. The two galleries communicate with each other by the two extreme arches, and by the three of the middle, the opening of the former being twice as large as that of the other fifteen. At a height of 1 metre 35 c. the remaining twelve arches are occupied by the cases of the library, and by twenty-four heat conductors, having the appearance of elegant chimneys. The other repositories of the books running along the four internal facades, are surrounded by a railing. They cover the lower portion of the walls to a height of about 4 metres. There are six tables in each of the two longitudinal galleries, and one in each of the others. Every one has room for thirty-four readers. The floors of the two reading-rooms, those of the MSS. and prints, are of inlaid wood, and pipes of gas issuing from the midst of the tables will light the place during the evening hours, and the whole library is capable of accommodating one thousand readers. The rooms of the ground floor are 7 metres high; the hall of the first room is nearly 10 metres high; and the floor extends to a length of 78 m. 10 c. Each gallery has a width of 5 m. 59 c. The extreme arches have an opening of 8 m. 72 c.; the remainder only one-half. Taking all the above into due consideration, we cannot but congratulate our neighbours on the completion of this original and well-conceived structure.

#### NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The Chelmsford Board of Health have resolved to "procure such a survey of the town to be made as will be in accordance with the instructions of the General Board of Health, by the Ordnance office."—Mr. Ranger has presented his report on the question of supplying Southampton with water. The report, according to a Hampshire paper, enters fully into the whole subject, giving a comparative estimate of the expense, &c., of the various plans proposed—results of analyses of different waters—costs of conveying same—and also report on the well on the Common. Mr. Ranger recommends, as the result, that water be obtained from the Mansbridge lock, on the River above Swathling. The report is to be printed. A motion is about to be decided on by the Southampton Council for advertising an offer of a premium of 50*l.* for the best plan, &c., for converting the public lands into places of amusement and recreation: another motion on the same paper relates to the establishment of a cattle market; and another is the petitioning Parliament for the repeal of the window tax. Stedham Church, near Midhurst, built under the superintendence of Mr. Butler, of Chichester, architect, was consecrated on Sunday in last week. The former church, being much too small for the population of the parish, and otherwise inconvenient, was taken down, and the present structure, which furnishes accommodation for 300 persons, was erected chiefly by the liberality of Miss Payne, of Rotherhill. It is built in the earlier style of pointed architecture, and has a nave, chancel, tower, and south aisle. A subscription fund for erecting a new church at Fisherton-Anger (Salisbury) is progressing favourably; and an eligible site will probably be obtained, and the building commenced, during the present year.—Fear of danger from powder magazines appears to be very prevalent just now. "Public attention," says the Times, "has been aroused to

the extremely unguarded and dangerous condition of the powder magazine at Laudore, near Swansea. This magazine, which contains a store of gunpowder amounting to nearly six tons, is situated in dangerous proximity to the South Wales Railway, from which it is distant only a few yards, and it is nightly passed by numerous workmen bearing lighted torches, and often carrying dangerous combustibles. The danger, however, is greatly increased at the present time from the fact that there is in the roof a hole nearly half a yard square,"—which we should think it not at all unlikely that a spark from a locomotive in passing might considerably enlarge.—At a recent meeting of the Liverpool Health Committee the Inspector of Nuisances reported the cleansing of 955 cesspools during the past week, and the reference of 1,316 middens and ashpits to the Building Surveyor for examination and repair, and the issue of 641 notes to persons whose middens were to be removed. He also reported that 81 nuisances complained of by the inhabitants had been inspected and reported on, that 100 nuisance notices had been served, and the reference of 46 others to the Borough Engineer for remedy by drainage, and 39 to the Building Surveyor for examination and repair. During the past year 1,054 cellars were examined, 158 of which were claimed as built or altered under the late Health Act, 650 were unoccupied, 187 were occupied, but without beds, in evasion of the law, and 59 with beds in them, in violation of it, and which will be again cleared.—With reference to the site of Islington-market, near St. George's-hall, at Liverpool, the *Local Times* says, "We have heard many artists and other people of taste express astonishment at the wonderful effect produced by the removal of the Old Islington-market, and utter fervent hopes that the land will not again be built upon. Certainly, injustice will be done to St. George's-hall if any buildings be thrown up on this angular piece of ground. The removal has produced precisely the effect that was required, for now there is an open space and an abundant play of light on every side. The site would be an admirable one for a statue to Sir Robert Peel, for an obelisk, or any similar object; but any larger erection would give the place a close, huddled up, and disagreeable appearance. The buildings of Islington-terrace might under the supervision of a skilful architect, be easily altered, so as to present a very handsome front, and to harmonise with the fine architectural specimens everywhere rising up in the vicinity. The squalid buildings at the top of Shaw's-brow could be replaced by some lofty erection which would effectually shut out the old windmill and other objects behind, and thus an air of completeness would be given to the whole place in this direction, and at comparatively little expense."—The new Baptist chapel, just erected in Great George's-street, Leeds, has been opened for Divine service. It is designed in the early decorated style of Gothic architecture, cruciform in plan, with north and south aisle, and fitted up with open seats or benches to accommodate 600 persons. The length of the chapel, from east to west, is 102 feet; width of nave and aisles 33 feet; transepts 60 feet from north to south; height of apex of roof, 56 feet: the walls are of stone: the cost of building and furniture is 1,700*l.*; that of the land, 1,100*l.* Mr. Thomas Shaw is the architect.—Plans have been prepared by the same architect for a new church which will probably be built at Thornton, on the site of the present church.—It is in contemplation to form a company for lighting the town of Olney with gas. The plan proposed is to raise 2,000*l.* in shares of 10*l.* each.—At a recent meeting of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Church Building Association, a grant of 100*l.* was ordered to be paid towards a re-arrangement of sittings in Wellington Church, by which accommodation has been obtained for 879 persons, the increase being for 289. The sum of 100*l.* the remainder of the grant of 200*l.* towards a re-arrangement of the pews in Bridgwater Church, was also ordered to be paid. This church formerly afforded accommodation for 827: by the present arrange-

ment there are 774 free sittings for adults, 151 for children, and 507 for other persons; making together 1,432. Grants were also made to Saltford and Milverton churches.—There is a probability of the little town of Uck being now lit with gas. A committee has been appointed to ascertain the expense of erecting the works: 2,970 yards of main pipe would be required.—Eight hundred of the inhabitants of Manchester have addressed a memorial to the Council, complaining of the filth and unsatisfactory state of the streets of the town, and urging the necessity of more effectual cleansing, especially with the scavenging machines, already brought into successful operation.—A sculptured monument has been recently executed to the memory of the Rev. Dr. Stoward, late rector of Abingham, Lancashire, by Mr. J. B. Robinson, sculptor, of Belper. The style adopted is the Perpendicular Gothic, with carved centre canopy, pinnacles, finials, &c. The stone is from the Mansfield quarries, used in the erection of the new Houses of Parliament, where Mr. Robinson was employed during six years.—A stained window, by Wailes, has been placed in the tower light of Eiland Church, Halifax, as a monument to the Rev. Christopher and Wm. Atkinson, father and son, 47 years successively incumbents of Eiland. The window consists of three lights, the tracery being in the perpendicular style. The first on the left is a representation of our Saviour's presentation to the Temple: on the right stands the high-priest with his hands extended to receive the infant, who is presented by his virgin mother, and behind her the figure of Joseph carrying a basket containing two turtle doves is just visible. Beneath the group is an angel holding a scroll, with the text, "His name was called Jesus." In the centre compartment is portrayed the baptism in the Jordan, while on the left is St. John the Baptist, pouring the water on our Saviour's head from a shell. All the groups are thrown out by a florid ornamentation.—The subscriptions for the rebuilding of Cockermouth Church now amount to about 3,700*l.* The Monarch Insurance Company having paid the whole amount of insurance, viz. 2,000*l.* without any deduction for salvage, 300*l.* only is required to make up the necessary amount, 6,000*l.*—The Fawcett Schools at Carlisle were opened on Tuesday in week before last. The building is in the Tudor style of architecture—of red freestone below, and of red brick with white stone dressings above. There is not much expended on ornament. The schools are all on one floor; above the level of the West Walls, on which the building stands. They consist, first, of a boys' school and girls' school, each 45 feet by 36 feet, separated from each other by sliding doors, and 24 feet high to the ridge of the open roof; and, secondly, of an infant school, 38 feet by 22 feet 6 inches, at the north end of the building. This is lighted by a large four-light window at each end. The boys' and girls' schools are calculated to accommodate (at the rate of nine square feet to each child) 173 boys, and the like number of girls; the infants' school is calculated for 150 infants; altogether, 500 children. Mr. James Stewart was the architect. The contractors were, Mr. Thomas Robson, mason and bricklayer; Messrs. Cameron and Briggs, joiners; Mr. J. Chaske, slater; Mr. D. Blain, plumber; Mr. D. Clarke, ironfounder for the columns and beams of the roof; Mr. J. Blaylock, for the east-iron windows; Mr. Henry Twiddle, painter, &c. &c.—Gutta percha pipes are now in use in St. Matthew's Church, Glasgow, for behoof of the poor.—It is stated, in Moody's National Property List, that a house in Charlton-street, Glasgow, has been sold by private bargain at 390*l.* for the erection of a Roman Catholic institution, or nunnery.—The various meeting-houses in Newcastle, says the *Local Journal*, seem disposed to locate themselves as near as possible to the Great Central Railway Station. A new Independent meeting-house is being erected in Clayton-street West, in place of the old one in Zion-court; the Baptist congregation, which meet in To-hill-stairs, have purchased a site in the vicinity, at the rate of 27*s.* 6*d.* per square yard, and they will shortly